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SUBJECT Stalin Works in Most

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Stalin Hydrogenation Works in Most (Bruex) was built by the Germans during World War II. The production of raw synthetic gasoline from lignite amounted during the war to about 20,000 liters per shift from which 35 percent was converted into pure gasoline. Under German control the plant employed about 30,000 forced laborers. By the end of the war the Stalin Works had been badly damaged by bombing and the laborers had been dispersed. In order to reorganize the plant Dr. Landa and Dr. Tichy, who had been removed from their positions in the Bata Plant in Zlin for political reasons, were made technical director and administrative director respectively of the Stalin Works. They were unable effectively to reorganize the plant, which continued for some time to operate very uneconomically on a small scale and at a loss. During the first six months of the Two Year Plan the plant fulfilled its quota only to eight percent and caused the entire chemical industry to fail in fulfilling the Plan.

2. Hydrogenation during the period of the Two Year Plan was carried out using an unsuitable catalyst with the result that only six to eight percent of the production was capable of being converted into gasoline, while 30 to 40 percent was produced as gas for which there was no use and which was allowed to escape into the open air, and about 18 percent was produced as paraffin substances (parafinovy gac) which were considered waste materials and stacked in warehouses. This paraffin is now being used in the production of inferior polishes and for impregnating paper and wood and greasing hides and harnesses.

3. Although it was planned to oxidize some of the paraffin to produce fatty acids, and to hydrogenate more of it by the Fischer and Tropsch process to produce fatty alcohols, neither of these processes is yet being used. The paraffin is at present merely being bleached before being shipped to the paper, textile and leather industries. Some of the gas which was formerly released is now being compressed and used as fuel in specially adapted motor vehicles or for use in stoves. Much of the gas is piped to Prague, or via Jablonne, Liberec and Hradec Kralove to Pardubice where it is used for heating. Since the catalyst used in the hydrogenation process has been changed, the production of gasoline has increased from 12 to 16 percent and is nearly sufficient to cover present Czech needs.

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4. The gasoline produced by the Italian works has an octane rating of about 60. Tetraethyl lead is added to all the gasoline which is produced for military use. Lubricating oils produced by the plant are also of a low grade and are mixed with imported oils. Much attention is paid to the regeneration of used motor oil. The powdered coke which is produced as a by-product of the hydrogenation process is delivered as fuel to industrial plants or is mixed with tar waste and pressed into briquettes for fuel in private homes.